

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 18, 2001

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### GRANT AWARDED FOR BYRDCLIFFE EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a \$10,000 grant for the purpose of planning an exhibition on the Byrdcliffe arts community in Woodstock. The Byrdcliffe Centennial Exhibition will open in Woodstock and will subsequently travel to other locations.

"Most people think of Woodstock in terms of the historic music festival that took place in Sullivan County in 1969," said Hinchey. "But long before the festival, Woodstock was the home of the Byrdcliffe arts and music community. Byrdcliffe played an important role in the history of American art and it is very appropriate for the NEH to help fund this exhibition."

Founded by Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead in 1902-03, Byrdcliffe is responsible for the first artists coming to Woodstock and consequently changing the cultural landscape of Woodstock throughout the 20th century. It played a key role in the arts and crafts movement in the United States and is the oldest continuing arts colony in the United States. Resting on the hillside of Mt. Guardian overlooking Woodstock, Byrdcliffe consists of 29 original buildings on 300 acres and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Byrdcliffe furniture, drawings and pottery are in the collections of renowned museums throughout the country.

The Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen, which has been the steward of Byrdcliffe since 1976, is producing the Byrdcliffe Centennial Exhibition in partnership with the Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University. It will open at three artistic venues in Woodstock in June 2003 before traveling to other sites. The NEH grant has been awarded to Cornell to help arrange for the necessary consultations with scholars and museum professionals.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, and public programs in the humanities.